



CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
CHILDREN COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 21, 2013**

**HB 6331, AN ACT CONCERNING SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD
BLOOD DONORS**

The Connecticut Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 6331, An Act Concerning Sixteen-Year-Old Blood Donors**. HB 6331 would permit any person who is sixteen years of age to donate blood in conjunction with any voluntary blood donation program, provided such sixteen-year-olds produce written authorization from a parent or guardian prior to donation. Currently, the legal age to donate is seventeen.

Connecticut hospitals rely on voluntary blood donations to provide essential medical care to their patients. It is imperative that donations are encouraged, as the current blood supply is at a near-crisis level. We know that the sooner people are allowed and encouraged to donate, the more likely they are to continue as donors. This bill allows for the opportunity to expand the pool of available donors, and has the potential to increase the supply of blood in Connecticut for both the short- and long-term.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.